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 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1951 - 1952

SUBJECT Economic - Construction materials

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily, semiweekly newspapers

DATE DIST. / AUG 1952

WHERE
PUBLISHED Moscow; Kishinev

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE
PUBLISHED 28 May - 18 Jun 1952

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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NEW PRODUCTS, IMPROVED PRODUCTION METHODS FOR USSR BRICK INDUSTRY;
CRITICISM OF MOLDAVIAN BRICK PLANT

NEW SILICA BRICK PLANTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION--Moscow, Promyshlennost' Stroitel'-
 nykh Materialov, 18 Jun 52

New silica brick plants are currently being built in the RSFSR. The Sine-
 glazovskiy Plant is under construction in Chelyabinsk Oblast, and a workers'
 settlement is being built in the vicinity. Other silica brick plants are being
 built in Voronezh, Ul'yansovsk, and Yoshkar-Ola (Mari ASSR). Similar enterprises
 will soon be built in Krasnoyarsk Kray, in Velikiye Luki, Orel, Kaluga, Vladimir
 and Ryazan' oblasts, and in the city of Magnitogorsk. Each of these plants is
 to have an annual output of 60 million bricks. The plants in Rostov and Molotov
 oblasts will soon be put into operation.

New enterprises are to be built in Moscow Oblast. A plant with an annual
 capacity of 120 million bricks is to be built in 1953 in the Voskresensk region,
 and a similar plant in Kashir.

A foam-silicate products plant is now under construction near the Lyubertsy
 Station of the Moscow-Ryazan' Railroad System.

A new administration, "Glavnovsilikatkipich" (Main Administration for Con-
 struction of New Silica Brick Plants), is being organized in the Ministry of
 Construction Materials Industry RSFSR.

NEW BRICK-MAKING TECHNIQUES USED -- Moscow, Moskovskaya Pravda, 29 May 52

Enterprises of the construction materials industry in Uzbekistan are begin-
 ning to make wide use of new production techniques, originally introduced by the
 Nikol'skiy Brick Plant in Moscow. Many brick plants of Uzbek SSR are now adding
 fine coal to the clay for brick molding, a new method which has given good re-
 sults. For example, enterprises of the Fifth Tashkent Brick Plant Administration

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using the new technique have reduced fuel consumption 10 percent, have shortened the firing period by 12 hours, and have greatly improved the brick quality. The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Uzbek SSR has decided to convert all large brick plants to the new production method in the next 2 months.

NEW-TYPE CERAMIC BLOCKS PRODUCED -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 30 May 52

The Moscow Experimental Ceramics Plant, located near the tall building of Moscow University, is setting up production of ceramic blocks for construction of housing and cultural buildings.

During the present year, workers of the enterprise have helped brick plants of the City Administration of Construction Materials and Construction Parts to set up facilities for the output of new ceramic blocks. The new blocks are light weight and have good heat-resistant qualities. Walls of the upper stories of large buildings can be faced with these to a thickness of 38 centimeters, that is, the thickness of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bricks. Heretofore, such walls have usually been faced to a thickness of $2\frac{1}{2}$ bricks. Use of the new blocks lessens the weight of the building and increases its fire-resistant quality.

The enterprises now use mouthpieces (mundshtuk), with the help of which the recently constructed ceramic block department of the Beskudnikovo Brick Plant No 2 will shape its products.

At present, preparation of mouthpieces for five new types of blocks has been completed. The Experimental Ceramics Plant will begin issuing these products in June. The enterprise will coordinate its production with the Architectural Construction Bureau of the Architectural Planning Administration of Moscow City.

Concurrently with experimental work, the enterprise is carrying out large-scale output of blocks for buildings in the capital. The plant quickly fulfilled the May program and today started production in its June quota.

SHORTAGES, POOR WORKMANSHIP AT TIRASPOL' BRICK PLANT -- Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 28 May 52

There are serious construction difficulties in Tiraspol' because of a shortage of construction materials, mainly brick. The chief supplier of brick-- the Tiraspol' Plant -- has disrupted the program during the past year.

In spite of good equipment, qualified personnel, and a sufficient quantity of raw materials, the plant management has done little to improve the situation. Instead of taking action to alleviate the shortage, Plant Director Rodman and Chief Engineer Maksyuta have done little more than think up excuses to justify the lag.

More than 200 workers are employed at the plant.

Air drying of brick is badly organized at the plant. For the air-drying equipment there is still only one shed for 800,000 bricks. Yet, with a minimum expense it would be possible to have at least five or six of them and the problem would be by no means insoluble. There is, however, no point in speaking of new construction when the available shed is not completely full.

During the past year the plant was deficient in its deliveries to construction organizations by more than 200,000 bricks. The plan during the first quarter 1952 was disrupted. The factory in May guaranteed 100,000 bricks above the plan.

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The enterprise as usual put out a low-quality product. Instead of the 64 percent of superior-quality brick established by the plan, the plant delivered a total of 18-20 percent. The reason for this is that up to now no consistency of composition had been established. As if to decrease its quality, sawdust has been added. As a result, in the drying and burning process the bricks are deformed and broken. It has been established now that not sawdust, but slag and crushed brick are to be mixed with the composition and the brick quality will thereby be improved. However, the new composition has not yet been utilized and construction organizations are frequently returning the worthless product to the plant.

The Main Administration of the Construction Materials Industry, Council of Ministers Moldavian SSR, which has jurisdiction over the Tiraspol' Brick Plant, has not given the enterprise the attention that it should have. Shargorodskiy, chief of the main administration, is an infrequent visitor at the plant and carries on his supervision by means of directives. During the past year, the industrial-financial plan, which was carried out without the participation of specialists from the plant, was first approved by the administration in May. This means that the big plant worked blindly nearly half a year. The administration is not taking proper measures to guide the plant even now.

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